



CLASS CEILING

What the cost of study?

My journey from Aintree, Liverpool to CSM.

From Southport art college via St Martins, Observer,
Conde Nast New York,
News International Brooklyn, ELLE UK,
and back to CSM by Cath Caldwell

Many advantages:

But what's the cost?

Leaving family

Leaving home

Losing friends



My family

Joseph and Josie Caldwell:

12 children (2 infant deaths)

2 sons emigrated

Girls looked after the boys.

Boys wages shared between the family.



None went to university.

‘It was for other people, not us.’

Eddie far left

My parents

Pat worked in Hartley's jam factory. After having four children she worked as a laboratory technician



'Printers Devil' - Circa 1956.



Eddie worked as a typesetter apprentice from age 16.

"No chance of going to university".

Knew no-one at university. Did get his City and Guilds.

My siblings

Our Martin, Our Ann, Me and Our Phil



About 50% of my friends went to university or college.
Many left Liverpool



At catholic school, the Sisters of Mercy
made us apply to university.



1969 at Lands End (left)
and 40 years later (below)

1961 Pat and Eddie
1980s 4 children went to university
2019 9 grandchildren heading for University



Leaving family

- I've lost touch with some of my 24 cousins.
- My kids had no grandparents nearby and know only a handful of their cousins.
- Lost the advantage of Liverpool cultural heritage
- Broken the traditional family link of caring for elders



Mum and Dad rely on neighbour's support



Great to see you but only once a year!

The wall at home

All four of us left Liverpool
to go to university.

None of us lived or worked in
Liverpool again.

Ann

Engineering
and industrial management

Cath

Graphic Design



Martin
Physics

Phil
Chemical
Engineering



I miss drawing
with my Dad



Leaving home

Restless

Lack of recognition.
People were not like
me

Loss of support
network

Have to
continually
work to
earn a living, creating
a gap with new friends
who didn't have to
work.



Feel a wistfulness
for places that no
longer exist



Losing friends

It's tiring being on the edge. Left London to work elsewhere.

Get used to being on the outside and keep moving on.

I've had to adapt my accent (lose it) and fight against the cliché.

Had to build my own network to replace the ones I'd lost.

Value the remaining friends I have – who also left to get an education.



Making communities at college and at work



...and at work in magazines

Helping students to build their own communities

Consequences

I don't like working in hierarchies that depend on elite systems (snobbery, bullying, exclusion)

I try to recreate family of like-minded people – in publishing and communities of practice

I teach how to create your own networks.

I write about how to access knowledge that appears inaccessible. I still freelance just in case...





WHAT CLASS CEILING?

Thanks

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See my Amazon author books profile

Ann, Cath, Martin and Phil

Went to catholic school where the nuns made us apply to university knowing our parents were unlikely to encourage us.



1969 at Lands End (left)
and 40 years later (below)



Mum sewed all our clothes
(left)